

Application No. 09/839342
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. E14.2B-9321-US01

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-20 and 28-31 without prejudice.

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A multi-step clean-in-place method for cleaning hard surface in dairy operations, the method comprising the steps of:

a) flushing said hard surface with a pre-rinse solution said pre-rinse solution ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of water, and a partially neutralized anionic polymer, at least one co-builder or mixture thereof and a source of alkalinity or mixture thereof; and

b) further comprising at least one other step which is either flushing said hard surface with at least one other rinse solution, said rinse solution being either acidic, caustic or neutral, or cleansing said hard surface with a main wash solution, or [[or]] a combination thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said partially neutralized anionic polymer is selected from polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polysulfonates, polyphosphates, polyphosphonates, phosphino polycarboxylates, polyaspartates, polycarboxylated alcohol alkoxylates, copolymers thereof, and mixtures thereof.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said main wash solution is an enzymatic wash solution, a caustic wash solution, an acidic wash solution or a neutral wash solution.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein said pre-rinse solution comprises from about 25 to about 10000 ppm of said partially neutralized anionic polymer.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein said pH of said pre-rinse solution is about 5 to about 10.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said pre-rinse solution removes gross soils.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said gross soil comprises whey, whey fractions, milk, milk fractions, or milk products.

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28.-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said co-builder is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, diethylenetriaminopentaacetic acid, hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, aminotri(methylenephosphonic acid), 2-phosphonobutane-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid, diethylenetriaminepenta(methylenephosphonic acid), or mixtures thereof.

33. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said source of alkalinity is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal carbonates.

34. (New) A multi-step clean-in-place method for cleaning hard surface in dairy operations, the method comprising the steps of:

a) flushing said hard surface with a pre-rinse said pre-rinse solution consisting essentially of water, a partially neutralized anionic polymer and a source of alkalinity or mixture thereof; and

b) further comprising at least one other step which is either flushing said hard surface with at least one other rinse solution, said rinse solution being either acidic, caustic or neutral, or cleansing said hard surface with a main wash solution, or [[or]] a combination thereof.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein said co-builder is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, diethylenetriaminopentaacetic acid, hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, aminotri(methylenephosphonic acid), 2-phosphonobutane-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid, diethylenetriaminepenta(methylenephosphonic acid), or mixtures thereof.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein said source of alkalinity is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal carbonates.